

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A method of comparing two series of cells in a multi dimensional spreadsheet comprising a plurality of cells identified by a cell address along each dimension, a series of cells comprising one or a plurality of cell range, a cell range comprising one or a plurality of cells, said method comprising the steps of:

defining a boolean attribute, said boolean attribute having a first and a second value;

assigning the first value of said boolean attribute to each cell of a first series of cells;

assigning the second value of said boolean attribute to each cell of a second series of cells;

determining in a first operation whether all the cells of said first series of cells share the same first value of said boolean attribute, or share the same second value of said boolean attribute or do not share a same single value of said boolean attribute;

for a second operation, again assigning the first value of said boolean attribute to each cell of the first series of cells;

determining in a second operation whether all the cells of the second series of cells share the same first value of said boolean attribute, or share the same second value of said boolean attribute or do not share a same single value of

said boolean attribute;

recording intermediary information from the first operation and the second operation in a comparison table, stored in a memory of a computer;

determining whether the first series and the second series are the same or not by comparing results of the first operation and the second operation:

if all the cells of the first series share the same second value of said boolean attribute in said first operation and if all the cells of the second series share the same first value of said boolean attribute in said second operation, the first series and the second series are the same.

2. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 1 wherein the step of determining whether the first series and the second series are the same or not comprises the further step of determining whether the first series and the second series are disjointed or not by comparing the results of the first operation and the second operation:

if all the cells of the first series share the same first value of said boolean attribute in said first operation and if all the cells of the second series share the same second value of said boolean attribute in said second operation, the first series and the second series are disjointed.

3. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 2 wherein the step of determining whether the first series and the second series are the same or not, comprises the further step of determining whether the first series and the second series overlap or not by comparing the results of the first operation and the

second operation:

if all the cells of the first series do not share the same single value of said boolean attribute in said first operation and if all the cells of the second series do not share the same single value of said boolean attribute in said second operation, the first series and the second series overlap.

4. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 3 wherein the step of determining whether the first series and the second series are the same or not, comprises the further step of determining whether the first series and the second series are included one in the other or not by comparing the results of the first operation and the second operation:

if all the cells of the first series share the same second value of said boolean attribute in said first operation and if all the cells of the second series do not share the same single value of said boolean attribute in said second operation, the first series is included in the second series;

if all the cells of the first series do not share the same single value of said boolean attribute in said first operation and if all the cells of the second series share the same first value of said boolean attribute in said second operation, the second series is included in the ~~second~~ first series.

5. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 1 wherein said boolean attribute is temporary.

6. (Currently amended) A system comprising ~~means adapted for carrying out the~~

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~~method according to claim 1 :~~

means for defining a boolean attribute, said boolean attribute having a first and a second value;

means for assigning the first value of said boolean attribute to each cell of a first series of cells;

means for assigning the second value of said boolean attribute to each cell of a second series of cells;

means for determining in a first operation whether all the cells of said first series of cells share the same first value of said boolean attribute, or share the same second value of said boolean attribute or do not share a same single value of said boolean attribute;

for a second operation, means for again assigning the first value of said boolean attribute to each cell of the first series of cells;

means for determining in a second operation whether all the cells of the second series of cells share the same first value of said boolean attribute, or share the same second value of said boolean attribute or do not share a same single value of said boolean attribute;

means for recording intermediary information from the first operation and the second operation in a comparison table, stored in a memory of a computer;

means for determining whether the first series and the second series are the same or not by comparing results of the first operation and the second operation:

if all the cells of the first series share the same second value of said boolean attribute in said first operation and if all the cells of the second series share the same first value of said boolean attribute in said second operation, the first series

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and the second series are the same.

7. (Previously presented) A computer readable medium comprising instructions adapted for carrying out the method according to claim 1.